

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 02551 250910Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /013 W
-----047121 251017Z /17
R 250849Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO USICA WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7200
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 02551

ICA FOR EA/DEPARTMENT FOR EA/ROC

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: SCUL CVIS, TW,US
SUBJECT: KAOHSIUNG TRAVEL GROUPS TO VISIT U.S.

REF: (A) USICA 03204, (B) TAIPEI 02467

1. EMBASSY WAS INFORMED BY TRAVEL AGENT THAT APPROX-
IMATELY 20 ROUTINE TOUR GROUPS FROM THE KAOHSIUNG AREA
(WITH 40 TO 50 MEMBERS EACH) PLAN TO INCLUDE THEIR
SISTER CITY PLAINS, GEORGIA IN U.S. ITINERARIES THIS
SUMMER. KAOHSIUNG CITY OFFICIALS HAVE ENCOURAGED
TOURISTS TO VISIT PLAINS, AND SOME GROUPS MAY PLANT
A TREE IN THE PARK DONATED BY KAOHSIUNG; HOWEVER,
THEIR ACTIVITIES ARE ESSENTIALLY PRIVATE IN NATURE.
SOME GROUPS MAY CARRY PHOTOCOPIES OF A LETTER FROM THE
PLAINS MAYOR TO THE KAOHSIUNG MAYOR WHICH ENCOURAGES
SUCH VISITS, BUT THIS DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN OFFICIAL
INVITATION.

2. AS MOST OF THESE GROUPS ARE SIMPLY ADDING PLAINS
TO A LIST OF POPULAR TOURIST STOPS, AND DUE TO THE
VOLUME OF TOUR GROUPS VISITING THE U.S. FROM TAIWAN
(2 OR 3 PER DAY DURING THE SUMMER), THE EMBASSY IS
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UNABLE TO PROVIDE DEPARTMENT WITH FULL ITINERARIES
OF THESE NON-OFFICIAL GROUPS WHICH, IN ANY EVENT, OFTEN
CHANGE AFTER REACHING THE U.S. WE WILL CONTINUE TO
REPORT DETAILS ON OFFICIALLY SPONSORED GROUPS INCLUDING
FULL ITINERARIES AS EARLY AS THESE CAN BE
OBTAINED.

3. WE UNDERSTAND PLAINS MAYOR A.C. BLANTON HAS
INVITED UP TO 300 PEOPLE FROM KAOHSIUNG TO ATTEND
THE OPENING CEREMONIES OF KAOHSIUNG PARK IN PLAINS
ON JUNE 3. WHATEVER THE SIZE OF THE OFFICIAL
DELEGATION TURNS OUT TO BE, WE EXPECT IT WILL BE
SWELLED BY MANY KAOHSIUNG TOURISTS VISITING THE U.S.
AT THIS TIME. UNGER

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